

**FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER
MIDDLE and WESTERN DISTRICTS OF LOUISIANA
LAFAYETTE HEADQUARTERS
102 Versailles Boulevard, Suite 816
Lafayette, Louisiana 70501**

Rebecca L. Hudsmith
Federal Public Defender

(337) 262-6336
Fax (337) 262-6605

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT 2021-01: ASSISTANT FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER

The Federal Public Defender Office for the Middle and Western Districts of Louisiana is accepting applications for the position of Assistant Federal Public Defender to be duty-stationed in Baton Rouge as the supervisory attorney in charge of the Baton Rouge branch office. The Federal Public Defender Office operates under the auspices of the United States Courts pursuant to the authority of the Criminal Justice Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3006A, to provide representation in federal criminal matters in the federal courts.

Job description: Provide professional legal representation to indigent persons charged with criminal offenses in the United States District Courts for the Middle District of Louisiana and the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Responsibilities include overseeing the operations of the branch office consistent with the policies of the Offices and with the assistance of the Federal Public Defender; managing an extensive caseload with cases at varying stages of litigation; preparing pleadings, motions, and briefs; reviewing discovery documents, interviewing witnesses, developing litigation strategies, and meeting with clients (many of whom are in jails across Louisiana) and their families; working with experts; assisting CJA panel attorneys on a consulting basis; appearing on behalf of clients in the district court, including in jury trials, primarily in Baton Rouge, and in the appellate court, primarily in New Orleans. Federal public defender attorneys cannot engage in the private practice of law.

Requirements and qualifications: Applicant must be (1) a graduate of an accredited law school and admitted to practice in good standing before the highest court of a state; (2) licensed to practice in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana and the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals by the time of entrance on duty; and (3) licensed to practice law in the State of Louisiana, or must become so licensed at the earliest opportunity after entrance on duty. A minimum of ten years legal experience is preferred. Applicant must have good working knowledge of federal sentencing guidelines and relevant jurisprudence. Applicant must have experience researching and writing pretrial memoranda, sentencing memoranda and the like in federal criminal cases in the federal district courts and appellate briefs in the Fifth Circuit. Applicant must have ability to research via computer assisted legal research tools, draft memoranda and briefs using Word software, and file via the electronic court filing system district court pleadings and appellate court briefs without the assistance of a legal secretary or paralegal. Applicant should have federal criminal court experience, including federal criminal defense motions hearings and jury trial experience, strong writing and advocacy skills; a reputation for personal and professional integrity; a proven history of commitment to the representation of indigent defendants; an ability to work well in a team environment; and effective organizational skills and an ability to set priorities and follow-through with those priorities in a timely fashion.

Salary/Benefits: This position is full-time with federal benefits and salary commensurate with experience and qualifications and comparable to that of Assistant United States Attorneys with similar qualifications and experience. Employees of the Federal Public Defender Office are considered at-will employees, and the advertised position does not carry the tenure rights of the competitive Civil Service. Position is subject to mandatory electronic funds transfer (direct deposit). Successful candidate will be subject to a satisfactory background investigation as condition of employment.

Application Information: Qualified persons may apply by forwarding a letter of interest, resume (legal experience should be described in detail), references and representative writing sample via email to Rebecca.Hudsmith@fd.org or by mail to Rebecca L. Hudsmith, Federal Public Defender, 102 Versailles Blvd., Suite 816, Lafayette, Louisiana 70501. Position closes on June 15, 2021. The applicant should be available to begin employment on October 1, 2021. No phone calls please.

The Federal Public Defender is an Equal Opportunity Employer.